

Message Text

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STATE FOR CU

USIA FOR IEE

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON FROM PRESS AND CULTURAL
COUNSELOR NALLE

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: COULTURAL PRESENTATIONS; JOFFREY BALLET

1. WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNPREDICTABLE
BEHAVIOR OF THE JOFFREY BALLET MANAGEMENT ON THE EVE OF
THEIR SOVIET UNION TOUR AND APPEAL TO YOU TO CONSIDER
WHETHER THE SITUATION DOES NOT CALL FOR INTERVENTION AT
YOUR LEVEL TO BRING THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE. THEIR
BEHAVIOR SEEMS TO US HERE SO CAPRICIOUS AND UNREASONABLE
THAT A CONFRONTATION NOW, RISKING CANCELLATION, MAY BE
PREFERABLE TO LETTING THEM LOOSE ON THE SOVIET SCENE IN
THEIR PRESENT STATE OF DISARRAY.

2. BY INFORMING THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF CULTURE THAT THE
COMPANY THREATENED CANCELLATION UNLESS THEIR ILLOGICAL
DEMANDS FOR "THE KIROV THEATER IN LENINGRAD OR A FOURTH
CITY ADDED TO THE TOUR" WERE MET, WE HAVE FORCED THE
MINISTRY TO OPEN DATES AT THE OPERA HOUSE IN VILNIUS.

THIS HAS REDUCED THE TOTAL PERFORMANCES FROM 28
TO 26 AND RESULTED IN CONCENTRATION OF TIME IN THE

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BALTIC STATES AS AGAINST LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW WHERE THE

REAL BALLET AUDIENCES EXISQT.

3. HAVING JUST ACHIEVED THIS COSTLY CONCESSION WE NOW
LEARN THAT THE JOFFREY MANAGEMENT WANTS TO MAKE A FURTHER
CHANGE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES IN VILNIUS.

4. AS YOUR CU/ARTS OFFICE IS WELL AWARE THE JOFFREY
MANAGEMENT'S EGREGIOUSLY SLOPPY PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING
NAMES OF DANCES AND DANCERS, PUBLICITY MATERIALS, DATA ON
STAGE PROPERTIES, AND INFORMATION IN GENERAL, HAS ALREADY
PLACED US IN A NEGATIVE AND EMBARRASSING POSITION VIS-A-
VIS THE SOVIET SIDE. WE ARE REACHING THE POINT NOW WHERE
LACK OF INFORMATION AND SHIFTING DEMANDS THREATEN THE
SUCCESS OF THE TOUR, WITH OPENING NIGHT ONLY THREE WEEKS
AWAY.
STOESSEL

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